

# THE SWORD OF THE LORD

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"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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## Proving God GOD'S ANSWER TO MAN'S SIN

BY JOHN R. RICE

(Part of sermon preached January 23, 1938, at Dallas, Texas. Stenographically reported).

Would you like to have some three or four ways by which you could absolutely prove the Bible true? by which you could absolutely prove the Bible inspired? I can tell you how. Let's read in Malachi, the third chapter, beginning with verse seven:

"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?"

"8. Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."

"9. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

"10. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

"11. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."

"12. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts."

"13. Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?"

"14. Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts."

"15. And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered."

Now this scripture tells about a time when people doubted whether the Bible was true, doubted whether it paid to serve God. When they said, "It is vain to serve God," they slandered God. They didn't believe the Bible was true; they didn't believe it paid to be a Christian. It is a sad fact, and yet it is a fact, that all over the land there is doubt about the Bible. That is part of what people think is modernism. Modernism is just another word for old-fashioned, old fogey heresy of other days. Somebody comes along and says, "I am an intelligent, modern man. I can't believe all that stuff about the Bible." You are a fool. There have been some in every age for thousands of years — men like you, with hearts bad against God. You do not consider the evidence. On every hand there are doubts. Somebody said, "I can't believe the

Genesis account of creation, that God made man out of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." That comes out of doubt. Somebody else says, "I can't believe Jonah — I can't believe in the Bible the story about Jonah and the whale, and that he stayed alive three days and three nights in the belly of the whale and came out alive and preached. I can't believe that." Somebody else says, "I can't believe the miracles in the Bible, when Joshua spoke and the sun stood still in the heavens for a long time and they had a longer day. I can't believe that. It looks like if things all stopped and the sun and earth in relation to each other stopped moving, there would have been such a jolt people would have been killed." Somebody else says, "I can't believe that the angel of the Lord literally came in the days of Hezekiah when Sennacherib surrounded Jerusalem and killed 185,000 soldiers in one night — just the angel of the Lord without anybody taking a part. I can't believe that." Other people say, "I can't believe in the virgin birth. That would be a biological miracle. I cannot believe that Jesus was born of a virgin with no human father at all." And other people say, "I can't believe Jesus arose literally from the grave." Preachers in Dallas, so-called preachers of the gospel — actually they are hypocrites, and not only hypocrites but impostors, and they ought to be pulled out of the pulpit — they do not believe in a literal, bodily resurrection of Christ. Other people could believe that, but say they cannot believe in Hell, what the Bible says about there being a real Hell of literal fire, that people going there will be tormented forever. Somebody says, "I can't believe that." On every hand there is unbelief.

In the Sunday School Quarterly of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Intermediate Quarterly for the months of January, February and March, the first quarter of 1938, in the "Introduction to the Book of Mark, the Fisherman's Gospel," the editor and writer of that topic teaches that Mark got his information from Peter and other human sources, that he wrote down what he heard, checked up and asked questions, and that is the way Mark got his gospel. Of course the Holy Spirit was author, too, more than anybody else, the writer says, but that Mark really got his information from Peter.

On every hand there is doubt about whether the Bible is so. On every hand there is doubt whether God answers prayer, whether God does as He used to do, whether people can be filled with the Spirit, whether the sick can be healed as they once were — people don't believe that. Did you ever hear anybody say, "I cannot believe that God could raise up a sick person in answer to prayer? No, God intended for us to use things at hand. God cannot heal without medicine, doctors, hospitals, etc. God healing a person in answer to prayer! No, I don't believe anything like that." Unbelief, unbelief. I have discovered that multitudes of Christians do not believe God answers prayer about sickness, about rain, etc. They say, "Rain is controlled by the laws of nature—we are not supposed to pray for it to rain or not to rain, the laws of nature settled that." They say, "God will give us grace to bear what comes. God does not heal the sick but will

By Evangelist Hyman J. Appelman

(Sermon preached Sunday night, August 13, 1939, in revival at Terrell, Texas. Stenographically reported).

I call your attention tonight to the twenty-third verse of the sixth chapter of Romans where Paul the apostle summarizes all preaching, teaching and theology in the one statement: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." I am going to preach to you tonight on God's answer to man's sin.

There are some people, I am sure some here tonight, who say they would like to be a Christian but they don't know enough about the Bible, the Word of God. They say they don't know enough about the will of God. But you know this one verse of scripture is all anybody has to know to be saved, and if you will have it, all anybody has to know to be damned. The Bible was written for spiritual children. We are all spiritual children. The greatest theologians who ever lived confessed themselves to be but spiritual children. And of course we who are so far short of greatness in theology, we cannot even begin to consider ourselves as scholars of the Word. We are spiritually at a low level. God knew it. So again and again in His Word He surmises in pungent, simple, definite, direct declarations what He wants us to know about our sins and what He wants us to do about our salvation. I think this statement is the greatest and simplest of them all: "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." That is so simple, so easy, that nobody can fail to understand it. The children, the grown people, the educated, the ignorant, the old and the young, the Jew and the Gentile, Bible students and the person that merely glances or dips into the Word of God, we may all see the meaning, the mighty meaning of God in His Word, in this statement.

### I. Sin Is Death

You know there are three things contained in this text. First, sin is death. Second, salvation is through Christ, and third, that salvation is the free gift of God's love. Sin is death, salvation is through Christ, and salvation is the gift, the free gift of God's love. That sin is death has been known through the ages. It was death when Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden of Eden and the seeds of mortality began to work havoc in their bodies. It was death when the flood waters of Noah swept across the earth so that every floating corpse of man and beast was an amen to Paul's declaration that the wages of sin is death. It was death when fire fell from heaven on the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah and every smouldering heap of bones and every smouldering heap of machinery or

woodwork, marking where some dwelling place stood, was a positive proof from the hands of God that Paul knew whereof he spoke when he said, "The wages of sin is death." It was death when the angel of God visited the land of Egypt and in one night slew the firstborn in every Gentile home so that every morning, crying, weeping, agonizing parents was an exclamation point to the certainty of the assertion of Paul that, "The wages of sin is death." It was death when the Serbian student unfortunately and misguidedly slew the Austrian Archduke in 1914 and baptized the world in a welter, in a sea of blood, the like to which no generation of men that have ever lived have seen. Every headstone over every soldier's grave of the millions upon untold millions in France, in Germany, in Belgium, in Japan, in Italy, in America is just one more proof that Paul spoke sooth when he said, "The wages of sin is death." Yes, it is national death, it is civil death, it is economic death, it is political death, it is social death, but the thing I am concerned about is that sin is individual death. It is death for the Jew. It is death for the Gentile. It is death for a man. It is death for a woman. It is death for a child. It is death for a king on his throne. It is death for a jailbird in his cell. It is death for the queen in her boudoir. It is death for the harlot in her den of ill fame. It is death for the philosopher in the chair of education and training in a great university, and it is death for the peasant turning the clods as he follows his plow. It has been death ever since Adam and Eve disregarded the will of God and the Word of God, and it shall continue to be death inescapable, unavoidable, universal, personal and individual until Jesus the Christ comes again and overcomes

and vanishes and banishes the last enemy.

### Sin Is A Disease

And now, why is sin death? There are many reasons. I do not have time for all of them. Let me call your attention to three of them. Sin is death first of all because it is a mortal disease, it is an inexcusable disease. It is the degradation of the mind, it is the defilement of the heart, it is the destruction of the soul, it is the fever of the mind, it is the tuberculosis of the heart, it is the cancer of the soul, it is the disease of the body, it is the disease of the affections, it is the disease of the emotions, it is the disease of the aspirations. By the authority of God's Word, by the testimony of every scientist and psychologist, Christian or unsaved, that is worth his salt, sin is a disease. Man was not made for it. No, man was not made for tuberculosis. Man was not born with it. Neither was he made for cancer. Neither was he made for pneumonia. Neither was he made for sin. We follow the devil. We incline toward unrighteousness. We turn our backs on God. We refuse to heed His Word. We refuse the offer of the help of God in Christ and the Spirit. And the poison, the sin, the seed of Satan creeps into our hearts and into our minds and into our lives and it shoots its roots and rootlets in every direction of our lives until not only we, but everybody and everything we touch, are affected by it. Beloved, it is an incurable disease that can only be satisfied either by the blood that Jesus Christ spilled on Calvary's cross or in the endless, burning fires of an everlasting hell of torment. The choice is yours. Sin is a disease that you cannot heal by your own strength, by your own power, by your own wisdom. There is no human doctor, no human remedy, no human medicine, no human cure: science can't help you, art

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## Editor Returns from Cedar Lake, Indiana, Evangelistic Conference

On beautiful Cedar Lake, dotted with white-winged sail boats, different groups of fundamentally-sound Christians meet throughout the summer for Christian conferences. One of the largest and best attended conferences is the evangelistic conference sponsored by the Christian Business Men's Committee of Chicago. This group of some twenty-five or thirty soul winning business men, who carry on noon-day services in a large theatre, broadcasting to thousands, sponsor this soul winning meeting of Christians annually at the Cedar Lake Conference Grounds.

It was the editor's high privilege to be the principal speaker morning and night throughout the eight days, August 6th to 13th, and minister to the multitudes attending. There was a devotional meeting daily at 7:30 a.m., children's meeting at 9:00, then a practical conference on soul winning led by rescue mission workers one morning, by the Gideons another morning, by Fishermen's Clubs (soul winning bands from many churches) another morning, etc., at 10:00. In the afternoon an hour's vesper service under the trees with many testimonies was greatly enjoyed. At 11:00 a.m. daily I spoke on soul winning, how to do it, and at 7:30

each evening I gave an evangelistic message.

Cedar Lake is only forty-two miles from Chicago. Thousands of Christian people from all that area, including the states of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Nebraska, attended all or part of the conference. Much of the time the camp was crowded with people. The grounds have a nice hotel, many cottages to rent, dormitories and tent-houses, with a well-conducted dining hall.

A good many were saved for which we devoutly thank God. In this morning's mail (Wednesday), at Dallas, came a decision slip from a man at Peoria, Illinois, who evidently received the booklet "What Must I Do To Be Saved?" at the conference and has already read it and been led to trust in Christ.

We are grateful to God for the many, many friends we met and particularly for the way God's message took hold of the hearts of multitudes. Many said that they resolved to be soul winners at any cost, and there were many tears and much prayer.

Tuesday and Wednesday the editor returned to Dallas, here to remain for some weeks, God willing.

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### NEXT SUNDAY

Hear John R. Rice

RADIO WRR, 7:30 A.M.

9:45 a.m. Sunday School Lesson.

11:00 a.m. Morning Sermon at Sunset and Tyler Streets.

7:30 p.m. Revival Service at 201 East Tenth Street, Dallas.

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## PROVING GOD

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

give us grace to bear the affliction." The seed of unbelief is planted in the hearts of people everywhere.

Somebody says, "Well, Brother Rice, this modern, intelligent, educated, cultured age demands that it be proven." They say, "The Bible is getting behind, people are laying it aside. These are days for scientific minds," etc. This age is not essentially any different from any other age. These days men get drunk; they get in a V-8 Ford and go sixty miles an hour. But in other days they got in a chariot and rode as fast as they could.

I remember in my boyhood about a drunken, rowdy boy who went to a revival meeting and cut the tent ropes. Major Penn was preaching. As this drunk boy went home that night on a horse, the horse was running and he came to a tree and dodged to one side. The boy went on one side of that tree and the horse on the other. He fell off the horse head first, knocked his brains out and died. There has been unbelief in every age the same. You think the Bible will soon be out of date because these days you have got to have proof. My friends, I bring you good news. The Bible will never be out of date. The Bible can prove itself and you can here and now say, "I will put the Bible to a test. I will put God to a test and prove what God says is true. 'Prove me now herewith,' God says. This is important. God says, 'You can prove Me, and you can prove Me now, and here is the way to do it.' This is definite, isn't it? Prove me, and do it now, and here is the way to do it. God makes us a proposition, and we can find out if we really want to know whether God's Word is true, whether the Bible is true. And you are a fool not to do it.

I bring you tonight three or four ways that a Christian or a sinner can absolutely prove God, prove that what He says is true, prove Christ is all He claims to be, prove that the Bible is true and have some things settled. Every preacher ought to say, "God helping me, I will do it." Soul winner, Sunday school teacher, lost sinner, I dare you to do it. I know you can. If you want to know, you can find out, and there will never be any more doubt. "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord."

All right, with that in mind I want you to say, "I for one time will face God fair and square and find out whether the Bible is true and have my doubts settled."

There came a time in the University of Chicago where I was a graduate student in 1921, when I made up my mind to this. I heard William Jennings Bryan speak on "The Bible and Its Enemies." I heard some other men speak on modernism and they tried to prove the Bible untrue. To their satisfaction they proved the Bible not true. I came face to face with that thing. I said, "I will not be a hypocrite. I will not be a fool. I

am going to find out whether or not the Bible is the Word of God." Thank God, I put God to a test so definite that I have never doubted it. God says here is the way to prove Him and have it settled. "Prove me now herewith, saith the Lord."

"Prove me on the money question," the Lord says. I praise the Lord that this is practical, not abstract. It is not just mystical, but it is practical.

A spiritualist may say to you, "I can prove to you that you can get in connection with spirits in the unseen world." There is a certain night to come into the room and shut the door. You can't let anybody in. We have got to have everything absolutely dark," he says. He must have things his way. He can't come to your house, you must go to his. You put your hands on his table. The table is prepared ahead of time. You tap a certain way. There are certain kinds of lines for you to learn. And he says he can prove one can get in touch with the unseen world.

So here on the matter of whether we have food for our table — on the matter of daily bread — the Lord says, "I want you to prove me now. You have robbed me. You are under a curse. You have sinned against me and you are under a curse and that is the reason for financial poverty. That is the reason you are poor. That is the reason you are in trouble," the Lord said. "Prove me now on this," the Lord said. "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."

Why are there bugs on the cotton and a blight on the peach trees, and bugs in the garden? "Prove me, and I will rebuke those things. I will put away the grasshoppers from you. I will give you more than you can have any other way. I will fill your cup full to overflowing. The Lord said, 'I dare you to put me to a test on this and prove me.'"

Frankly, anybody that says the Bible is impractical and visionary is ignorant, there is nobody home upstairs. You can know about this. I have put God to a test. I am willing to risk my ministry on it. In my case, praise God, I am only talking about something that I have tried and proven again and again. I am willing to risk my faith in the Bible. I would be willing to put it on this basis: If this works, I will be a Christian. If it doesn't work, I will not be a Christian. I say that it works. If it doesn't work, nobody has any business believing in God.

Somebody says, "Brother Rice, that matter of tithing is in the Old Testament." Nevertheless, it is still true and the plan still works. In the first place, God owned the land the Jews lived on. He owns the land you live on. God gave the Jews the rain in the Old Testament to make crops and God gives you the rain to make crops. God gave the Jews a keenness of mind to make a living. He gives you the same thing. God is just as good to you. Jews owed God everything. They were Jews under law. But a Gentile under grace ought to love God as much as Jews under law. This argument that the tithing business is in the Old Testament is just a good dodge for stingy people who don't want to do right. People that don't believe in tithing are folks who give less than a tithe. Someone says, "Brother Rice, a Christian ought to sometimes give more than a tithe." I agree with you. For a good many years now my wife and I have given more than a tithe. But nobody ought to give less. In the New Testament the same plan is repeated again and again.

In Luke the sixth chapter, verse thirty-eight says:

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

And in Second Corinthians Paul says on this same matter:

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (II Cor. 9:6).

Oh, my friends, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." You ought to say, "Lord, I am willing to put You to a test on this."

Jesus said on this same matter in Matthew 6:33:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you."

If you think first about getting the gospel out, if you think first about pleasing God and serving Him and giving to Him and honoring Him — if you put that first you will get things to eat and something to wear. The Lord says:

"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

They don't work, they don't worry, and yet God clothes them. Oh, ye of little faith. God cares for the sparrows, and He said to us, "Now, then, if you seek first the kingdom of God, all these things I will add unto you," and it is mentioned in the Bible again and again. God never does make giving a matter of law in the New Testament but He makes the promise the same and it is, "Prove me, prove me, prove ME, and see." Right now, if you want to know whether the Bible is true or not, in the first place I would say, "All right, Lord, I am in a hard shape. I am poor and I can't afford to tithe, but I am going to tithe and expect you to repay me. There are Christians here who are poor and feel that they can't afford to tithe. I tell you, you are missing a lot. According to this scripture, you are actually losing money by not tithing. You say, 'Oh, Brother Rice, you are making it too literal.' No, I'm not. Actually, many a person is poor because they don't tithe. They lose money because they don't tithe. God has promised here a physical blessing, a material blessing of food and clothes and rent and a job and what you need for today. You may never get rich, but you will have every day all you need. Bring your tithes and offerings and, He said, 'I will pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.'"

I will tell you what I would do. If doubts entered into my mind and there is something in the Bible I couldn't believe, or if you say, "There is this in the Bible I don't like, and I wonder if God answers prayer." If doubts entered into my mind about anything in the Bible and there came a time when you wanted to find out if the Word is so, I would say, "All right, God, I am going to prove you right now," and I would put the whole thing to a test and find out. Isn't that right? My friends, listen. God isn't afraid for you to put Him to a test.

Sometimes He would not give a sign. The wicked, unbelieving Pharisees asked for a sign, but they didn't believe. They tried to kill Jesus. And He said that the only sign He was going to give them was the sign of the prophet Jonas:

"For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

That was a mighty big sign! God worked a miracle when He raised Jesus from the dead. That was sign enough, wasn't it?

And old Joshua said, "I want a sign," to the Captain of the Lord's host. Gideon said, "I want a sign." He put out his fleece and God gave a sign and He put it out a second time and God gave another sign.

King Hezekiah said, "I want a sign whether I am going to die or whether I am going to get well." Isaiah asked him if he wanted the sun to go down ten degrees or back ten degrees. So Hezekiah said he wanted the sun to go back. He wanted a big sign. Jesus don't mind people coming to see and proving Him.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "I have found the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth." Nathanael said, "I will go see." And he came and saw Jesus. Jesus said to him, "When thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee."

Nathanael answered and said unto him, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel."

God invites you to prove Him. "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself" (John 7:17).

God invites you to prove Him. He invited you to do it on the money question. You ought to say, "All right, Lord, give me grace and I will be square with you. I will acknowledge every penny I ever get belongs to God." "The silver and gold are mine," God says. "If I were hungry, I wouldn't ask you. The cattle on a thousand hills are all mine." All are His. Our bodies are His. First Corinthians 6:19, 20, says:

"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

Our time is His, all of it; not just one-seventh, but all of it is His. You ought to say, "Lord, I am willing to be a renter and pay rent and trust You to fix things right. I will bring tithes and offerings just like You said. I will bring tithes first of all and offerings as God prospers and I feel, Lord, if I prove You this way, You will pour me out a blessing that there will not be room to receive." "Prove me on this," He says.

Young Christians, listen to me. You are weak and wobbly. Did you ever see a young colt? He is all legs, and has great big, knobby joints. A lot of Christians are awfully wobbly on new legs. They don't quite know whether the Bible is so or not. Boys and girls, I tell you what I would do. I would say, "God helping me, I am going to try Him out on giving. Every time there comes in my hands some money, I will take the Lord's part out and see if God will provide for me." Prove God on this. I dare you to do it. You young Christians here who say, "I am awfully weak in the faith," tithing is a good way to grow and be strengthened in the faith. Isn't that so, Brother W—? I speak to Brother W— because I know he tithes.

Someone else says, "In my case, Brother Rice, I am poor. I am this, that and the other." I don't care how poor you are, it will pay you to tithe. You will love Him more if you will tithe. I don't care how sure you are of the Bible, you will be more sure when you prove it.

I was thinking tonight about my paper. Thank God for this fact: I have sometimes hoped that my paper would get on a self-sustaining basis, that the advertising would make up what the subscription price never does. We are now

printing 8,500 copies every week. The subscription price never pays for it, advertising never does. They don't pay for the printing and postage. The workers do not get a penny from the paper. All that comes in goes to pay the printing bill. I am paying out at the bank money I borrowed to pay the printing bill. I sent \$15.00 extra from last week on it. But I thank God that I have to come and ask God, "Lord, prove yourself on this business. I risk You on this. Prove Yourself."

Mrs. Rice, I want the time to come ever so often when we have to launch out in the deep and trust God, sight unseen, because we know God will keep His promises, when we must find out whether God still answers prayer as He used to. If we seek first His kingdom, He will provide for our needs.

I have got some good friends who sell insurance. I do not condemn others especially on the insurance matter. But I have had an agreement, a definite agreement, a covenant with the Lord. I am going to trust the Lord about my wife and children. I am mortal like other men. I may die at any time. I might die before all seven of them. It looks now very likely that I will die before some of them come to the age of independency. Humanly speaking, Mrs. Rice needs to have money laid by or insurance or property — some way she can take care of herself and the children. But I had an agreement with God on this money business. I gave up \$10,000 of government insurance. I refused to take the Government Soldier's Bonus. I had a right to it and could have had it. I gave up the whole proposition of insurance. I gave up a house we built for a home. I gave up any hope of laying by property. I had an agreement with God on this very matter. God will take care of my wife and my children. Some of you will know my family twenty-five, thirty or forty years from this time. If the time comes and I have kept faithful to God, if I have put my time and heart wholly into the Lord's business, if I have been faithful to God, if I have put Him first in tithing — if that is true and it turns out that the Lord leaves my wife in distress and my wife isn't cared for and my children are not cared for and God breaks His covenant, you put it down that the Bible isn't so. That is how sure I am on this question. You can afford to risk God. Sometimes preachers' wives have been in distress; preachers' children have been left dependent. Sometimes God is pleased for us to have poverty. I don't think my wife and children will be rich. But my wife and children are going to have food to eat and clothes to cover their

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## PROVING GOD

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

backs. I don't have to risk insurance companies. I have put God to a test on this money question and He is going to be true. I may be a fanatic, but I have peace of mind and I have proved Him too many times for the last eleven years to have any doubt about it now. God is going to keep His promise. "Prove me now here-with," God says. I hope somebody here will make up your mind to prove Him. If others don't help you, if you don't have food to eat, if you can't pay your rent, why don't you say, "I am going to get hold of God and prove God by trying Him on the money question. What I get I will pay the tithe and I will serve Him. I am going to put God to a test and prove Him on that." If you do that, you will have a testimony and can say to people, "I know the Bible is true."

He is not only true on the money question; I will go further than that.

A dear woman here tonight hasn't been well. Her sister came this morning and asked me to pray for her and we had special prayer for her. She had already consulted the doctors. After prayer I told her sister to go home and tell her to take her Bible and every day set apart a time to read the Bible, to meditate and pray and turn her sickness over to God, and I believe God will answer in that matter. I do.

I will go further than the money question. In the first Psalm, the scripture says:

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

"2. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

"3. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Now that is a plain statement of the Word of God. It is so or it is not so. If that isn't so, then maybe the rest isn't so. A Christian can say, "I will put God to a test so that everything I do God will prosper it." If he does that and says, "I will separate myself from the devil's crowd, I will not walk nor stand nor sit with the ungodly, I will meditate day and night in the Word of God, I will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water," then he need never have any doubt but that everything he does will prosper." That is what God's Word says. The same thing is promised in Joshua 1: 7-9:

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

"Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

The Lord gave a plain promise. A Christian, thank God can walk in the light of God, can meditate on the Bible, put his plans in God's plans, put his hand in God's hand, surrender his will for God's will and have perfect prosperity day by day and not have trouble but have sweet assurance in his heart, with food to eat and clothes to wear and peace in his soul. If the

## Fisher To Begin Two Week's Revival Sunday Night

### Old Church Again To Become Scene of Spiritual Fervor

Rev. Virgil Fisher will begin a series of revival services in the old church at the corner of Tyler and Sunset, next Sunday night at 8:00 o'clock. This is a sacred spot to all of Oak Cliff. Two churches having started their religious life there, and another having found refuge in it when fire destroyed the church where Dr. John Rice was worshipping last fall.

Deep appreciation is expressed to Dr. Rice for the courtesies of the building for the meeting. Fundamentalists Baptists will use the building each Sunday morning as usual, and meet Sunday night and Wednesday night at 201 East Tenth Street in the open air. The auditorium has fine large windows and five fine ceiling fans which will insure comfort to all those who will attend the meeting.

Sunday night Brother Fisher will speak on the subject, "MY CONFESSION." Monday morning at 9:30 he will speak on the subject, "LOVE CONTRASTED." Tuesday morning, "LOVE ANALYZED." Wednesday morning, "LOVE DEFENDED."

On Monday night he will begin a series of three sermons on the Good Samaritan. Monday night the subject being, "BEAT HIM UP;" Tuesday night, "PASS HIM UP;" Wednesday night, "HELP HIM UP." These are the three attitudes society takes toward the rest of the world. Which one does the church take? Which one do you take? Which one would the Lord take?

The services invite people of all churches and people of no church. All are welcome. Finding our souls and yielding them fully and wholly to God will be the theme of the meeting. Remember the place: Sunset and Tyler Streets. The time next Sunday night: 8:00, and each day thereafter except Saturday: 9:30 in the morning and 8:00 in the evening.

Bible is so, that is so. Why don't you take God up on this? "Prove Me now." Sister, you can get your Bible, set apart a certain part of the day, maybe an hour, and read your Bible and meditate and get victory that God will do what the doctors can't do.

Let me go a little further. Another thing: we can have peace and assurance about having our prayers answered.

In Philippians, the fourth chapter, Paul writes by divine inspiration and says:

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6, 7).

That is a promise of perfect peace that always comes by answer to prayer. Now, Christian, if you learn the secret of praying through in trials, in burdens, in the deceitfulness of riches, in the cares of this world, you may have peace always. There is something in this Bible to give you a victory in your heart so you need nothing but to take it to God in prayer and get the answer of peace.

"O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer!"

That is what the song says. The Scripture teaches the same thing. Don't be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer (only one step) and supplication (second step), with thanksgiving (third step), let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Prove God in prayer.

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## God's Answer To Man's Sin

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

can't help you, man can't help you, time can't help you, life can't help you, death can't help you, eternity can't help you. There is just one cure for sin and that is the blood and water that flowed from Immanuel's veins as He hung for our sins on Calvary's cross.

### Sin Is A Crime

The second reason sin is death is because sin is a crime. It is a crime against God. The sinner takes the blessings that God gives him — he takes the hands, the feet, the mind, the heart, the life, the soul, the loved ones, the friends, the blessings that God showers down upon that sinner; you, my unsaved friend, you take those things and use them for the devil. You use them for the flesh. You use them for the world. You use them for yourself. You use them against God. And God cannot and God never has and God does not now and God never will let the sinner go unpunished when he takes the mighty blessings of God and uses them contrary to the will of God.

Listen, folks, God help you to hear this, God help you to understand it and heed it; God help you to believe it. Every man and every woman and every child in this congregation, Christians and unsaved, will have to account to God for the use he has made of every talent and every blessing and every benefit and every opportunity and every gift that God ever gave to him. God help you to see it. Thank God, we Christians have the Lord Jesus Christ to be our Advocate, to be our Lawyer, to defend us, wash us in His blood, and cleanse our record and to represent us at the throne of God. But oh, you, my unsaved friend, where do you stand when you recognize, when you realize, when you know by the testimony of your own souls and your own consciences and by the Word of God, that you have to give an accounting of everything you have done in this life. For it is written, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books . . ." And again: "The sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works" (Rev. 20:12, 13). Now, beloved, there is no pardon, no forgiveness, there is no remission, there is no discharge from that crime of sin except through the Lord Jesus Christ. "There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," says God. Jesus said, "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

And, beloved, there is one more reason why sin is death. You know, we pass a law in the state of Texas that a man that murders or a man that kidnaps is to be executed. But this man, after he is sentenced to die for murder — he has friends, he is young, this is his first crime — after they have tried him and sent him to the penitentiary and he is sentenced to die, the governor of the state of Texas sometimes intervenes and pardons him or commutes his sentence to life imprisonment and later on the Board of Pardons will pardon him or the governor will let him go. There is lots of that. That has been done a lot of times in Texas. You remember Ma Ferguson used to and Pa Ferguson, too. Some of the other governors, every governor of the state of Texas or any other state has pardoned criminals. But, beloved, there is no such thing with God.

### Sin Is Death Because God Is Unchangeable

The third reason why sin is inexcusable, unavoidable, universal, definite death, is because God is unchangeable and His law is unchangeable. God cannot change. He cannot pardon a man that has broken the law. He cannot pardon a woman that has broken the law except — thank God for that except — except through the Lord

Jesus Christ. Now where do you stand, friend? Tell me, have you come to Jesus? Have you accepted Him as your Saviour? Have you been washed in His blood, or are you still in your sins? If you are still in your sins, if you have never come to Christ, then you are dead in trespasses and in sins and on the road to an eternal hell because sin is the disease of your soul, because sin is the crime of your life and because God is not a man that He can or should or will change.

### II. Salvation Through Christ

But, thank God, the passage doesn't stop there. If it had, I would have no message and there would be no use of having a revival, there would be no use of having a church. Paul goes on and says, "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Now of course you know that eternal life and salvation are synonymous terms. They mean the same thing. Now I say to you tonight that salvation is in Christ, by Christ, because of Christ, through Christ, and is for every man, for every woman and for every child in this congregation.

You say, "Preacher, that is a sweet thought, that sure makes me feel good, but how do you know it? You are just a man. You don't know all about us. You don't even know all of us. How do you know, how can you be so sure, how can you be so dogmatic, how can you be so dead certain that there is salvation for all of us when you don't know all of us?" Well, beloved, I know I don't know all of you, I know I don't know all about you; as a matter of fact, I am ready to admit, I am willing to admit, I am eager to admit that I don't know all about any one of you here. I will go one step further. I don't even know all about Hyman Appelman. Now maybe you know all about yourself. Maybe you are wiser than I am, I don't know. I don't know all about myself. But thank God, I don't have to know you, I don't have to know all about you, I don't have to know all about myself. I know the Bible. I know Christ, I know prayer, I know salvation, I know God, I know the power of the cross and the blood, and because I know God and the Son of God and the Word of God and the work of God and the cross of God and the Christ of God and the blood of God and the salvation of God, I tell you tonight, there is salvation for every soul among you that will come to Christ. You say, "Preacher, that is some man's words. Give us proof. How do you know it? What is your assurance of your salvation, what is in back

### Christ Came To Save

There are three things in God's Word about Christ. First, I know that there is salvation for you, for every one of you, because Jesus Christ came to save. That is the first thing. He said, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19: 10). He said, "The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). It was said of Him before He was born, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). Yes, thank God, by the authority of God's Word, by the testimony of these nineteen hundred years, there is salvation for you because Jesus Christ, the Son of God, left His home in Heaven, clothed Himself in the habiliments of a man, came down upon the earth with the sole mission, the sole ministry, with the sole problem, with the sole purpose of saving you and me, all of us, from our sins. Now if He came into the world to save, if God sent Him into the world to save, surely God will give grace, will give willingness, will give power, God will give authority to save us from our sins.

### Christ Died To Save

The second reason why I know that there is salvation for every sinner in this crowd tonight is because Jesus died to save. He died to save. It is written, "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isa. 53:5). And "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way," and it is written, "and the Lord hath laid on him (meaning Christ) the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). Yes, Jesus Christ stretched Himself out on Calvary's

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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## God's Answer To Man's Sin

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

cross, poured out His life unto death for one reason, for one purpose, for one program, for one achievement and that is to save us from our sins. Yes, because Jesus, by the Word of God, by the testimony of God, by the declaration of the Holy Spirit; because Jesus, in His own body bore the sins of every one of us, there is salvation tonight through Christ.

### Christ Lives To Save

Beloved, take one more step, a big step, a long step, a jump of a step, a leaping step. Leave this place tonight, reach up to the throne of God, climb up to the very courts of heaven, stand on the crystal pavement, look to the right hand of God and know that salvation is for you because Jesus lives to save! Thank God for that! The tomb does not contain Him. It is empty. He did not stay dead. God raised Him from the dead on the third day and took Him to Himself in glory and tonight Jesus lives to save us. You know, He only has one business. His business is not to send the rain. That is a kind of a side issue. His business is not to grow the crops. That is another side issue. His business is to save the lost in 1939 like it was when He said, "Zacchaeus, come down, for today I must be in your house," and when He said to the thief on the cross, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Yes, the Word of God says that Jesus Christ lives to save. For it is written: "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). And again it is written, "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever" (Jude 24:25). I thank God because Je-

sus came to the world to save, and because Jesus died to save and because Jesus lives to save, and there is salvation. There is remission of your sins, there is redemption of your souls, there is reconciliation to God for every man, for every woman, for every child in this congregation tonight regardless of your conditions, of your circumstances, of your weaknesses, of your sins.

### III. Salvation Is A Gift

Now my last word. God knows that we are sinners. He knows our weakness, He knows our wickedness, yet He loves us. He sent His Son to provide that salvation for us as I have told you, by His own blood. He raised that Son to prove that. In that Son we may have pardon, and tonight God offers that goodly, that matchless, that superlative, that supreme, that eternal, that earthly, that heavenly, that life, that death, that eternity-including salvation to every one as a free gift of His love. God doesn't want any pay for it. He doesn't want any price for it. He doesn't want any toll for it. Tonight He stretches out His hands to you, tonight He reaches out His arms to you, tonight He sends His dear, precious voice through my poor, hoarse voice as He says, "Come unto me and I will give you rest," as He says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Just think of what that salvation cost God. Just think how much He loved us when He was willing to send His Son to die for our sins! Just think of how much He loves us and how anxious He is about us when tonight, freely, for nothing, to every soul, to every sinner in this congregation He offers the priceless blood of His Son for your salvation. There is nothing for you to do except this one thing and that is to humbly, penitently, lovingly, gratefully, boldly, and in faith, say to God, "Lord, I know I am a sinner, I know I can't save myself, I know Jesus died for me. I know He will save me for Christ's sake tonight. I will accept Christ as my Redeemer. Do that and by every promise in God's Bible, God will save you from your sins."

It was Henry Moorhouse, that great English preacher of a generation ago that told the story. He said one time he was invited to hold a revival in a mining town in Wales. In those days mining towns were as wicked as any oil town in its boom days in Oklahoma or Texas. He went out there. There was no church organization and of course no church building. Some of the Christian men got together, a few of them, and built an earthen floor tabernacle, just four walls, some windows, a door and a roof, and that was all. The people came. Henry Moorhouse preached; souls were converted. They organized a church. The revival swept on. One night Harry Moorhouse started in to the church when two men stopped him.

"Brother Harry, come with us for a minute. We want to talk to

you. Brother Harry, we think you had better leave town tonight — close the meeting and leave town."

He said, "Brethren, what has happened? What did I do? What has anybody else done?"

"It is nothing that you have done, nothing that anybody else has done; it is what is going to be done to you."

He said, "Tell me. I am not going to leave until I know facts. I am not even going to make up my mind."

They said, "Well, we will tell you. In this town there lives a miner by the name of Ike Miller. He is the toughest, rottenest white man in all Wales. He has a wife and two children. He drinks, gambles, commits adultery. He beats up on his poor wife and children. He is a murderer although he has never been brought to justice. He hates churches, he hates us, and he hates you. He said if we didn't make you close the meeting tonight he was coming tomorrow night and break it up and pistol-whip you out of town."

Harry studied for a minute and said, "I have the sincere conviction in my soul that God brought me here and I am not afraid of Ike Miller nor anybody else. I am going to stay. Let's pray about it."

They prayed and then he said, "What does he look like?"

They told him. The next day Henry Moorhouse went up and down the streets of that little town looking for Ike but he couldn't find him. That night they came to church. They sang, they prayed, and he had just begun preaching when the door opened and in walked Ike Miller. Harry recognized him from the description. Clump, clump, down the aisle. He sat down and looked up at Henry as if to say, "All right, go ahead and do your stuff," and he bowed his head and sat there. Harry closed his Bible and lifted up his face to God in a silent moment of prayer and quoted a new text: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." And he preached a sermon on love that would make this microphone shed bitter tears. He preached a sermon on love until the congregation rocked and reeled under the pathos and passion. When he got through he asked the people to stand, announced an invitation hymn and Ike Miller turned around and stomped out. That crowd turned around. They didn't sing. Some of them got around Harry and said, "Of all the crazy, idiotic stunts any man ever pulled, you pulled the worst!"

"What did I do, brethren?"

"What does a man like that know about God's love? Why didn't you preach to him about hell, about judgment? Why didn't you preach to him about the wrath of God?"

Harry bowed his head and great tears trickled down his cheeks. He said, "Brethren, pray for me. I guess I made a mistake."

But he didn't. The Holy Spirit had been with him. Ike Miller walked down that Main Street where there were saloons and gambling joints and honky-tonks of every kind and filth of every kind. They pulled at him but he shook them off. Another time he would have stopped, but he kept on walking. He didn't even look at them. He didn't act like he saw them. He didn't let them stop him. He walked down that street a half a mile or a quarter of a mile, maybe. He turned to the right and walked down the road into the country until he came to a tumble-down shack. He burst the gate open and there a little piece from the gate was his one-room shack. He could see the light from the inside through the cracks. He made good money. Miners in those days were pretty well paid, but he wasted it and his wife and children had to live in a miserable hovel. He walked up to his house and pushed the door open and looked in. There was a chair, another one was against the wall, a table by the first chair, a bed in a corner, a stove, a pallet where the children slept, and that was all. His wife was sitting at the table working with something in a basket. The two children, one of them seven and the other five — a girl and a boy — were standing playing with something in their mother's lap. The door opened. The

wind blew the light a little. They looked up and there was daddy. The little children paled. They were afraid of their father. He was abusive. The mother stood up and motioned for the children to get behind her, and she walked backward until she came to the bed, and she motioned for the children to get under the bed. She thought her husband had come home drunk and was going to beat on them again like he always did. That poor, precious mother was going to take all the whipping that was coming that night and spare her children. Ike was a miserable sinner and rotten as hell, but he had brains and good sense, and he knew what was the matter. His heart smote him. He closed his eyes and blinked back the tears. After a while he stepped into the house and reached out his hands to his wife and said, "Honey, you don't need to be afraid any more. God has brought you a new husband tonight," and he hugged and kissed her.

She broke out into a storm of passionate weeping with all the anxiety and heartache of bitter years of abuse. After a while he let her go. He walked over to the bed and got down on his knees and after some trouble, wheedled the children out from under the bed. They looked up at mama, saw she was crying, and they began to cry. The man put his arms around them and stood on his knees and pressed them to his heart, bowed his head on their little breasts and sobbed with them. After a while, still on his knees, he looked up to his wife and said, "Wife, I guess we ought to pray, don't you?"

They got around the table, the four of them, and he said, "Wife, you pray."

She lifted up her voice and began to pray and broke down in tears with the agony of those awful years. She could hardly believe it was true after the turmoil of her life. And then Ike Miller began to pray. He said, "Lord," and he stopped. He said, "Jesus," and he stopped. He said, "Master," and he stopped. He said, "Saviour," and he stopped. He said, "Father," and he stopped. He did so want to pray, but he didn't know how. His sins, his awful sins, were standing between him and God. His heart broke and he began to sob until that table danced a jig under the wringing emotion of his torn body. After a while in that awful storm of remorse and repentance and confession there came to the mind of that sinner a little prayer poem that he had learned at the knees of his mother when he was young boy growing up in England. He raised his sin-scarred face, wiped the tears away, quieted himself down a little and prayed, and this is what he said:

"Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,  
Look upon a little child.  
Suffer my simplicity,  
Oh, let me come to Thee."

And, beloved, He that ever said to us, "Except ye become converted and become as little children ye shall in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven," reached down from glory and with His own blood washed away Ike Miller's sins and saved him and made him a Chris-

tian and called him to preach the gospel and used him to win hundreds and thousands of precious souls. What God did for Ike Miller for Christ's sake He did for this poor Jew, and He will do for every one of you if tonight you will come to Christ accepting the free gift of His love, even the blood-bought remission of your sins. Now God wants to save you tonight. Jesus is ready to save you tonight. The Spirit is inviting you to be saved tonight. There is one thing for you to do and that is to come and accept Christ as your Saviour. You know Christ died for you. You believe He can save you. Trust Jesus and God will do the rest.

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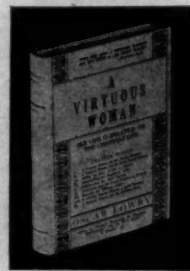
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